Texas Department of Insurance
Division of Workers' Compensation
Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48
7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78744-1645
518-804-4000 telephone • 512-804-4811 fax • www.tdi.texas.gov

MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name and Address

SHIRANG NEURGAONKAR, MD
3100 TIMMONS LANE, STE 250
HOUSTON, TX 77027

Respondent Name

TEXAS MUTUAL INSURANCE CO

Carrier's Austin Representative Box

Box Number 54

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-11-3172-01

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "CARRIER REFUSES TO PAY FULL AMOUNT DUE FOR SERVICES RENDERED EVEN AFTER A REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION WAS SUBMITTED."

Amount in Dispute: $350.00

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "1. The requestor conducted MMI and IR exams of the claimant on 3/7/11 then billed Texas Mutual for this. (See requestor's DWC-60 packet.) Texas Mutual reviewed the billing and attached documentation then declined to issue payment because the requestor assessed the lumbar spine as the compensable injury when it is not. The injury is an inhalation injury. (Attachment) 2. The requestor amended his report to include the inhalation injury. Texas mutual is willing to reimburse the MMI exam and the IR for the inhalation injury, i.e. a non-musculoskeletal area, at the MAR for both. However, the requestor insists on being reimbursed for the lumbar assessment, which is clearly unrelated to the injury."

Response Submitted by: Texas Mutual Insurance Company, 6210 E. Hwy 290, Austin, Texas 78723

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
March 07, 2011	99456-W5-WP and 99456-MI	$350.00	$0.00

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and all applicable, adopted rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Background

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.204 sets out Medical Fee Guidelines for workers' compensation specific services effective March 1, 2008.

3. The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:
   Explanation of benefits dated April 20, 2011
   - CAC-219 – BASED ON EXTENT OF INJURY (NOTE: TO BE USED FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION ONLY)
   - 246 – THE TREATMEN/SERVICE HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO BE UNRELATED TO THE EXTENT OF INJURY. FINAL ADJUDICATION HAS NOT TAKEN PLACE.

   Explanation of benefits dated May 31, 2011
   - W1 – WORKERS COMPENSATION STATE FEE SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT
   - 920 – REIMBURSEMENT IS BEING ALLOWED UPON A DISPUTE.

Issues

1. Has the Designated Doctor (DD) examination been reimbursed appropriately per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.204?
2. Is the requestor entitled to additional reimbursement for disputed services under 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.204?

Findings

1. The provider billed an original amount of $650.00 for CPT code 99456-W5-WP for a DD examination for Maximum Medical Improvement/Impairment Rating (MMI/IR). Review of the documentation supports that MMI was assigned and one body area/unit was billed in box 24G on the CMS-1500. However, the billing was denied as unrelated because the original submission report listed a non-compensable lumbar injury as the area rated. The requestor amended their billing for CPT code 99456-W5-WP for $800.00 with 2 units, and included both compensable injury of the inhalation/respiratory/chemical exposure injury as well as the noncompensable injury of the lumbar. An additional line item was added to the amended bill for CPT code 99456-MI for multiple impairment. The respondent paid for the MMI and the IR for the respiratory injury and did not reimburse CPT code 99456-MI. The IR per AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, 4th Edition for the non musculoskeletal condition of inhalation/respiratory/chemical exposure is per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.204 (j)(4)(D)(iv) and (v) and has a MAR of $150.00 The total MAR for the MMI/IR exam is $500.00. The extent of injury is not in question and multiple impairment rating was not requested, therefore CPT 99456-MI is not payable.
2. The respondent has already reimbursed the amount of $500.00 for the disputed CPT code 99456-W5-WP. Therefore, the requestor is not entitled to additional reimbursement.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the Division finds that the requestor has not established that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is $0.00.

ORDER

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code §413.031, the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to $0.00 reimbursement for the disputed services.

Authorized Signature

Signature	Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer	February 17, 2012 Date

YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST AN APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to request an appeal. A request for hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the DWC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers Compensation, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744. The party seeking review of the MDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision*** together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §148.3(c), including a **certificate of service demonstrating that the request has been sent to the other party**.
Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.